Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR PINT

SUBJ: LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH MR. WILLIAM BIERMANN, MANAGER,

EASTERN AIRLINES, BAHAMAS

A FEW MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST EMERGED OUT OF THE ABOVE SUBJECT CONVERSATION:

A) BIERMANN TOLD ME THAT, SOMEWHAT TO HIS PERSONAL SURPRISE, HE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT EASTERN IS NOT REPEAT NOT GOING TO ATTEMPT TO PICK UP THE ADDITIONAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC WHICH WOULD RESULT IF PAN AM'S REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS TO THE BAHAMAS IS APPROVED (SEE STATE 037117). ACCORDING TO BIERMANN, EASTERN DOES NOT HAVE EXCESS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AND IS APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO PURCHASE OR OTHERWISE FIND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. HIS ASSUMPTION IS THAT DELTA WILL PICK UP THE EXCESS IN ITS ENTIRETY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THIS IS IN FACT PLANNED BY DELTA

B) BIERMANN BELIEVES THAT THE FREEPORT PRECLEARANCE PROPOSAL MAY HAVE RUN INTO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

C) BAHAMASAIR, ACCORDING TO BIERMANN, (AND TO SOME EXTENT RUMORED IN THE LOCAL PRESS) IS SHORTLY GOING TO ANNOUNCE A MAJOR RETRENCHMENT. ASIDE FROM LOSS OF JOBS AND DE FACTO ADMISSION BY GOVERNMENT THAT AS CONSTITUTED THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED BAHAMASAIR IS IN BAD SHAPE, IF RETRENCHMENT INVOLVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF SERVICE TO OUT ISLANDS, THIS COULD

HAVE HIGHLY ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR RULING PLP.

D) BIERMANN SAYS THAT HE HAS HEARD FAIRLY RELIABLY THAT

AMBASSADOR JOHNSON WILL BE RETURNIRG FROM WASHINGTON IN MARCH
TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE IN NASSAU.

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